

House Resolution 181

By: Representatives Maxwell of the 17th and Richardson of the 19th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending CW2 Eric B. Thackston, recipient of The Air Medal; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, CW2 Eric B. Thackston, a native of Dallas, Georgia, was awarded The Air
4 Medal for his exceptional bravery and aviation skills as the Pilot-in-Command of the UH-60
5 MEDEVAC crew Talisman 73; and

6 WHEREAS, on July 23, 2004, the crews of Talisman 73 and Talisman 74 were alerted of a
7 9-line MEDEVAC call to evacuate multiple patients who had been critically injured by a
8 roadside Improvised Explosive Device and the ambush that followed; and

9 WHEREAS, pushing their Blackhawk helicopters to their maximum airspeed, the two crews
10 traveled the 35 miles to the landing zone in less than 13 minutes and, upon arrival,
11 discovered that the unit was still engaged with the enemy at the east end of the bridge and
12 reinforcements had not yet arrived; and

13 WHEREAS, Talisman 73 flew over the site to conduct a high recon and confirmed that the
14 only possible landing site was in the center of the bridge on a road flanked with high light
15 poles and divided by a guard rail, which was in close proximity to enemy fire; and

16 WHEREAS, without regard to their personal safety, the two crews maneuvered their
17 helicopters into the dangerous and difficult landing zone and unhesitatingly rushed to the aid
18 of the wounded; and

19 WHEREAS, as a result of their efforts, the lives of four coalition personnel were saved; and

20 WHEREAS, CW2 Thackston's courageous leadership and talent as an aviator, which he
21 displayed so honorably that day, have brought great pride to the Dallas community and the
22 State of Georgia.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body recognize CW2 Eric B. Thackston, recipient of The Air Medal, for
3 his brave and admirable service in the defense of the United States of America and the
4 liberation of the citizens of Iraq and commend the outstanding valor he displayed in the
5 events of July 23, 2004.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to CW2 Eric B. Thackston.